(d) The steps taken by the Government of India to protect tigers and other wildlife are at Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to *Unstarred Question No.* 2095 *(d)]*

National Afforestation Plan

†2104. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Forest Development Agency is set up with concurrence of the Central Government in forest divisions for implementation of forest development works under National Afforestation Plan;

(b) whether any consideration is paid on the prevalent weather, soil and biological pressures in different States while earmarking the optimum cost criterion for forest development works under the said scheme;

(c) whether any proposals from the Department of forests, Rajasthan have been received for amending the accepted cost criterion for fencing the free plantation areas; and

(d) whether the Central Government as per the request of Government of Rajasthan, propose to bring a provision for keeping flexibility in the optimum cost criterion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the Guidelines of National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) are constituted at the level of territorial/ wild life forest divisions in the State, and registered as society under the Societies Registration Act. FDAs are receiving financial support from Government of India for implementation of afforestation projects under NAP.

(b) The NAP Guidelines provide for model cost norms for various components of the FDA projects based on existing labour wage rate of the State.

(c) Yes, Sir. Proposals have been received from Rajasthan Forest Department for increasing the cost norms for fencing under NAP.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) The main objective of NAP is to regenerate degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation. NAP Guidelines, therefore, provide that the cost of fencing component should not normally exceed 5%. However, the Guidelines also provide that for projects requiring higher allocation for fencing, funds to the extent of 10% of plantation cost may be expended by effecting matching reduction in the allocation under the component "Overheads".

Census of Tigers

†2105. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the counting work of tigers in various sanctuaries has been completed; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of cubs born from 1999 till date and the number of cubs died as a result of hunting/natural death/negligence of employees, sanctuary-wise;

(c) the details of report of C.B.I, in respect of deaths of tigers;

(d) the details of amount allocated for tigers alongwith the number of tigers, year-wise and sanctuary-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The All India Estimation of tigers, which entails collation of data at the Government of India level, is done once in every four years, and the figures of last two such estimations are at Statement-I. (See Below). The forthcoming All India tiger estimation has been scheduled from November 2005 to February 2006. However, States carry out estimation of wild animals in their protected areas with frequent periodicity, which are not maintained in the Ministry.

(b) Such data are not collated at the Government of India level.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted a preliminary assessment regarding disappearance of tigers only in the Sariska Tiger

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.